



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CITY OF FRISCO

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Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Ryan J. Middleton, Planner I

XC: George Purefoy, City Manager
Henry Hill, Deputy City Manager
John Lettelleir, AICP, Director of Planning & Development Services
Jeffrey Witt, AICP, Comprehensive & Environmental Administrator
Brian Moen, P.E., Assistant Director of Engineering Services

Date: March 18, 2009

Subject: Discussion and give staff direction on rail and the Public Transit Study. (Planning & Development Services)

Action Requested: At the January 24 work session, City Council decided to hold a future work session to allow more time for addressing rail and the Public Transit Study.

Background: The City of Frisco came about because of the railroad. Today the rail system serves only a handful of businesses in Frisco. Over the past 10 years, Frisco has worked to return to its roots by planning for passenger rail service along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Rail line (BNSF). As a result of local and regional efforts, commuter rail is slated for three locations in Frisco that will connect to the regional system in Carrollton. These locations allow the opportunity to build transit-oriented developments, which along with the rail could:

- decrease traffic congestion and pollution
- provide an alternative for workers driving to and from jobs
- increase property values and sales tax
- lure “creative class” citizens and corporations
- provide the critical mass necessary to support transit service
- provide an alternative mode of transportation to Frisco’s sporting and entertainment venues

On June 17, 2008 City Council accepted McDonald Transit Associates, Inc. study on the future transit needs for the city. City Council stated that they would further review the implementation plan and funding options at a future work session. Let us know if you did not keep your copy of the Public Transit Study so we can provide you a hard copy or you can find it online at www.friscotexas.gov under Projects/Programs.

For public transportation to be efficient and effective it's imperative that the built environment be constructed with public transportation in mind. This means that higher density and mixture of land use occur around transit stations. Walkable environments are provided where people can walk to transit stations and stops. Failure in any of these areas will result in less ridership.

Board Review/Citizen Input: Frisco City Council and citizens have been involved in many opportunities to provide input on the future of passenger rail in Frisco. There has been overwhelming support as seen in the many resolutions and ordinances, which have included public involvement, that were all passed with unanimous approval (see Exhibit A). Public input was used throughout the 2000 and 2006 Comprehensive Plan process as well as developing the Public Transit Study.

Alternatives:

Not applicable

Financial Considerations:

Not applicable for rail at this time. The State Legislature is considering rail funding during the current legislative session.

For public transit other than rail, the Public Transit Study shows the proposed estimated revenue and capital costs, and the possible funds needed to supplement the operating costs. The Study also establishes benchmarks to gauge the success of the operation and for determining to expand. The final determination will be made by City Council during the budget process, and funding will be affected by the City's ability to secure grants as stated within the Study. The financial information is based on today's estimates and is subject to change. Funding estimates are dependent upon many factors including the ability to provide matching funds, and their availability to the City is not guaranteed.

Legal Review:

Not applicable

Supporting Documents:

- History of Passenger Rail Planning in Frisco
- Investment at Rail Stations
- Quotes on Rail
- Supporting Maps
- Public Transit Study (let us know if you did not keep your copy of the Public Transit Study so we can provide you a hard copy or you can find it online at www.friscotexas.gov under Projects/Programs)

Staff Recommendation:

1. To continue with current ordinances and resolutions in support of passenger rail and transit-oriented development in Frisco.
2. City Council evaluate the Public Transit Study each year for possible inclusion in the annual budget.

Table of Contents

Exhibit A – History of Passenger Rail Planning in Frisco

Exhibit B – Investment at Rail Stations

Exhibit C – Quotes on Rail

Exhibit D – Supporting Maps

- Proposed Regional Rail System
- Frisco Line Based on the Regional Rail Corridor Study
- Possible Initial Transit Circular Routes within the City
- Future Land Use Plan with Future Rail Stations

Exhibit E – Public Transit Study (Let us know if you did not keep your copy of the Public Transit Study so we can provide you a hard copy or you can find it online at www.friscotexas.gov under Projects/Programs)

Appendix A – 2000 Millennium Plan – Statements on Rail Transit

Appendix B – 2006 Comprehensive Plan – Statements on Rail Transit

Appendix C – Public Transit Study – Statements on Rail Transit

Appendix D – NCTCOG Mobility Plans from 2001 to Present